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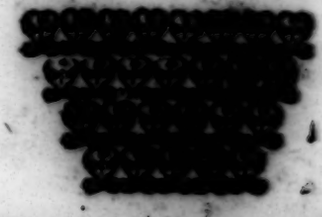
SOME REMARKS UPON Secret Propoſals, OF AN ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN The Government, AND THE CITY.



Printed in the Year, 1714.

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

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SOME REMARKS UPON Secret Propoſals, &c.

IT would Fill any *conſidering Man* with Indignation and Aſtoniſhment, to find, when Things are juſt brought to a *Criſis*, and the Beſieg'd upon the point of Surrendring Themſelves *Priſoners of War*; how, by *Art* and *Management*, *Secret Influence* and *Corruption*, ſome of the moſt *Forward* and *Zealous* in carrying on the Siege, grow inſenſibly *Cool* and *Languid*; and betray Signs of *FEAR*, not only to their Friends, tho' that too ſerves to Intimidate, but even to their very Enemies, who from hence gain new Strength and Reſolution, and grow more *Inſolent* in their Demands.

And how can it otherwiſe be, when the Officer who Commands the Siege, and the Chief Engineer, who Inſpects into the Train of Artillery, inſtead of Attacking, when the Breach is made, and no Propoſals of Capitulation yet appear from the City, Send in *Propoſals of Peace and Unanimity* to Them, and beg them *only to Sign their Names*, and ſeem willing to Comply a little, and they will uſe their Intereſt with the General to raiſe the Siege, and leave their City as they found it; being in no humour of Storming, whatever *Feints they may make that way*, and having a very tender and compaſſionate Regard for Them, and their Privileges, as *Brethren and Fellow-Citizens*? *Is it thereabouts*, cry the PEOPLE from within? *Why then, look ye, For this* Condeſcention, *We are willing to Deliver you Half the TOWN, for* Five Months, *ONLY*

that you may just take a view of the Fortifications, and Air your Selves upon the Walls : But then you, and all your Men must Out ; and you shall Swear, never more to appear in Arms before this place ; or give us the least Disturbance, but immediately an Act of Indemnity must Pass, for All Things that have happen'd during the Siege. ——— Such another Senseless, Ridiculous Project, *as this*, are a certain Chief, and another J———ce Engag'd in, with a certain *P*———*r*, by the Mediation of a Great P———te, at the Request of a certain General.

The *Proposals*, which the *R*———*r* and *Disaffected Aldermen* have now laid before His Grace the Lord-Lieutenant, and the *Privy-Council* for an Accommodation, by whatever Advice, or from whatever Pen they came, are more *daring* and *Insolent*, and more *Disrespectful* to the Government and Council, than the Election of Alderman *Barlow*, after his being *Rejected*; or, The *Return* of Alderman *Pleasant*, Certify'd under the Hands of Seventeen Aldermen, without the Seal of the CITY, and in the Absence of the LORD-MAYOR ; or any other Act of *Disobedience*, which the Aldermen have been guilty of, and sure they have been guilty of very many, since the beginning of this Contest.

It will not, I hope, be expected, That I should here present the World with a Copy of such a Paper, which lyes only in private Hands ; but by what is rumour'd about the Town, the Substance of it seems to be *this*. That after all the Frivolous Objections of Alderman *Constantine*'s Incapacity and Insufficiency, yet, if Sir *Samuel* Cook will Call Them to a *New Election*, they are Willing, at last, to Elect *Constantine*, rather than suffer the *present* Lord-Mayor to hold Over another Year : Provided however, That he will give up Two Main Branches of his Right, *i. e. Serve but Half a Year, instead of a whole One ; and suffer Them to Name a Sheriff for Him, of their own Stamp.* Whereas, it is notoriously known, that they have Elected One Sheriff already ; And that the LORD-MAYOR has an *undoubted Right* to the Nomination of Another. With which should *Constantine* Comply ? He won'd be a *Betrayer of the Rights of his Station* ; and the Government might, with as much Justice, Reject Him, as *any other*. But this is not all ; for the *FACTION* are *resolv'd to have half the Game in their own Hands 'till* Michaelmas ; and, *then* all must Return to Them again, never to be *parted with* on any Terms.

For immediately after *Constantine* is Sworn LORD-MAYOR, he must proceed to a *New Election* for the ensuing Year ; and then *Barlow* must be Chosen, and Approv'd off, whom the Government have twice Rejected ; and should he *fail in his Office*, as even the Aldermen are afraid that he may Drink himself to Death in the Year of his Mayoralty, not the next in *Succession*, but Alderman *Bolton*, a Man who can be more Confided in, must Serve for the remaining Part of *Barlow*'s Year

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Year, and the whole ensuing Year, together with Two Sheriffs, as good as the present, who have Absteained their Office. In which time, the *Common-Council* is again to be Model'd, *to serve the Interests of Faction, and the Purposes of the R———r.* And to compass this *mighty Scheme*, which is not worth a Farthing, tho' some say a Chief J———ce had an Hand in Drawing it Up; the *Privy-Council* must lay aside their *own Resolutions*, and give up *All* that, for which they have strugled in vain these Three Years past. The Aldermen, tho' Judg'd to have *broken the New Rules*, must rather be *Rewarded*, than *Punish'd for it*. The Sheriffs, tho' Tax'd with the *blackest Crimes* of *Obstinacy*, and *Disobedience*, and Fined by the *Queen's-Bench* for their *Misbehaviour*, must be Restor'd in *Statu quo*: In shore, all Things past, must be Forgotten, and Forgiven; And even *Inquisition* after the *Blood shed* in the *Tholsel*, during the Discharge of their Office, by no means to be made; Tho' GOD Almighty expresly says, that *by Blood a Land is Defiled, and cannot be Cleansed, but by the Blood of him that Shed it*. And can such a mighty Contest as this, between the Government, and the City, be put up so easily? Why, then, has it been kept on Foot so long? Doubtless they have a great deal to answer for, who have Embarrass'd the whole Nation all this while with a vain Dispute, which They themselves think fit now to Compromise, in such a manner, as if at all necessary, might better have been done sooner, and cou'd not have been done worse at the beginning.

The Consequences of such an Accommodation, at this Juncture, seem to be these. 1st. The *FACTION*, instead of being *Suppress'd*, which every Body thought was the main End propos'd, will be rather Encouraged and Animated by it: For, certainly, if these Proposals take Effect, *they have gain'd their Ends*, to keep the Government of the CITY in their own Hands, to Support the Interests of the *R———r*, and to Influence *Elections* and *Juries*, and this not for a Year or Two, but for Ever. For, what Government and Council will ever again be so hardy to begin a Dispute, which has succeeded so ill before, and came to such an Inglorious Conclusion? How will this Strengthen the Hands of their Friends all over the Kingdom, and Debilitate the Courage of their Enemies, to find that their Attempts *against the Crown*, have so far prevail'd, thro' the weakness of Government, and Relaxation of Justice? The *Motto* then, of All the *Corporations* in the Kingdom, may be Written in Capital Letters in their Town-House, *AUDE ALIQUID BREVIBUS GYARIS VEL CARCERE DIGNUS, SI VIS ESSE ALIQUIS*; i. e. *Attempt something against the Crown, and you shall be sure to gain more Concessions from It.* But, further, Either there is Law to Punish these Disorders, which have lately happen'd in the City, for lack of Justice, or, there is none: If there is Law, why has it not been put in Execution? And, may not they whose Business it was to see it Executed, be justly Accountable to the Crown, for the Neglect of their Admini-

Administration? Or, will it be sufficient to urge in their Defence, tho' they see the *Prerogative* Violated daily? Yet, the *FACTION* is arrived to such an height of *Insolence*, They *dare* not appear too Active in Suppressing *it*, without proper Instructions from the Ministry in England. In my humble Opinion, this is laying too great a Load upon the *Ministry*, who have Business enough upon their own Hands, and perhaps, would be glad to see that Work done by proper Officers, which they will not Advise to be done. Indeed, in all Actions of necessary Justice, which may bring a popular Odium upon him that Inflicts it, it is the Business and Prudence of *Inferiours*, to Screen their *Superiours* as much as they can, and to take a part of that Odium to Themselves, which would lye too heavy upon any Man's Shoulders, how great soever. But, if there be no Law to Suppress such Disorders, then Matters have been carried too far; the Sheriffs have been Fined Unjustly, and the Bench is liable to *an Impeachment*; unless there be an Article Incerted in their Favour, *That they shall not be accountable for their Severity against the Sheriffs, or their Connivance at the Murder in the* Tholsel, *and their giving up the Examinations, which were Intrusted to Them, by Virtue of their Office; and never Enquiring into it since.* That so both may be alike Involv'd in the Judgment, which will some time or other fall upon this City, for the *Effusion of Innocent Blood, when they have fill'd up the Measure of their Iniquity*: And, if I may venture to Prædict against my Self, greater Care will be taken, and more Application used to Discover the Person who dares publish to the World this bold Truth, than to Enquire into, and Punish the Murder.

But will not this Compromise most ignominiously give up, and expose to the Scorn of his Enemies, a Gentleman who has labour'd to *Serve the Crown in Times of the greatest Difficulty and Tryal*, at the Expence of his *Fortune*, and hazard of his *Reputation* in the City? I mean Sir *Samuel Cook* the present LORD-MAYOR, for I shall yet call him so, though his Brethren the Aldermen do not think fit to give him that Honour, he no less justly possesses than he deserves. And who after such an Example will ever expose himself to the least hazard or damage in the Service of the Crown? It is not to be doubted, but he might have had the highest Honours and Rewards the City could give him, if he had complied with their Measures. And shall the City influence by *Favours* or *Punishments* more than the Crown? Is the empty Honour of Knighthood sufficient Recompense for so much *Labour* and *Service*, such *unusual Zeal* and *Loyalty*? Will not the Electing a *Mayor* to serve till *Michaelmas* next, be a tacit Confession that he had not a Right by Law to hold over so long as he has done? And if he had a Right, ought he not to hold on still, and propose an *Election* only for the Year ensuing from *Michaelmas* next, or how else will he do *Justice* to his *Loyal Brethren*, who have stood by him, and for which only he has hitherto seem'd to contend? Can a Gentleman of his Honour and *Integrity* be brought

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brought to Sign such a dishonourable Treaty as is contain'd in these *Proposals*, by any other Motive than his *Obedience* to the *Government*, and, that he is told by some in Power, it will be agreeable to them? And should he out of his abundant Sense of Duty comply, [illegible] not this give up the *whole Point* and himself too, and put the City into a better Condition of promoting *the Ends of Faction*, than they were in some Years ago?

To Sum up all, may not the giving up this point, betray the QUEEN's Prerogative, with which the Government and Council are intrusted in this Kingdom? Sure I am, this was a Reason first given for begining this Contest, and holds good still for carrying it on to a better Issue than is proposed: For if the Aldermen have an allow'd Right to Elect, the *Government* and *Council* have as undoubted a Right to Approve or Disapprove; but how do they maintain that Right, if *Articles* are to be made with them beforehand, and Guarantees appointed, that for one Concession, of no Moment to the main Contest, they shall approve whom the Aldermen shall think fit to Elect? The Right honourable the *Lord-Chancellor* was attacked last Parliament as *a Disturber of the City*, and more of the *Privy-Council* who have concurr'd in this Affair, have reason to take Care, that they split not between two Rocks; the *Resentment of the Crown*, and the *Resentment of the People*.

If there is no Law to punish the Disorders, which might probably ensue, *ill Advisers* were they who went on so far: But if the Punishment of a *Breach* of the *New-Rules* be *Disfranchisement*, why is not that inflicted upon Sentence given by the *Council-Board*, to the Quiet of the City, and the Terror of other Corporations? Ay, but in the mean while *there is a lack of Justice in the City for want of Sheriffs*; *Writs cannot be Served*, *Criminals cannot be executed*, *the Goals are full*, *and there is an universal complaining in our Streets*. And can no way be found to redress these *Grievances*, without giving up the *Queen's Prerogative*, to humour a *Factious* and *Disobedient People*, who ought to be punish'd rather for the *Mischiefs* they have by their *Obstinacy* brought upon themselves and others? In my small Reading, *Lack of Justice* is a Forfeiture of the Charter. At least I have heard of *Fines* and *Imprisonments* at the begining of this *Contest*; some already have been imposed, but not returned to the *Exchequer*; others in time may be imposed, if our Judges be not terrified by popular Menaces, in whom alone, according to the learned Pleadings of Mr. *Broderick*, was the Power to prevent these Disorders, by issuing their *Mandamus* sooner, though perhaps it may not yet be too late.

FINIS.